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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Imagery Analysis Service Notes

27 December 1968

Declass Review by NIMA/DOD

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The IMAGERY ANALYSIS SERVICE NOTES is a periodic publication of the DDI Imagery Analysis Service, the departmental PI organization of CIA.

This publication highlights significant or timely intelligence items derived from photography.

The interpretations in this publication represent preliminary views which are subject to modification in the light of further information and more complete analysis.

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Note to Recipients: Imagery Analysis Service Notes was not issued for the weeks ending 13 and 20 December. This issue covers the period 9-27 December.

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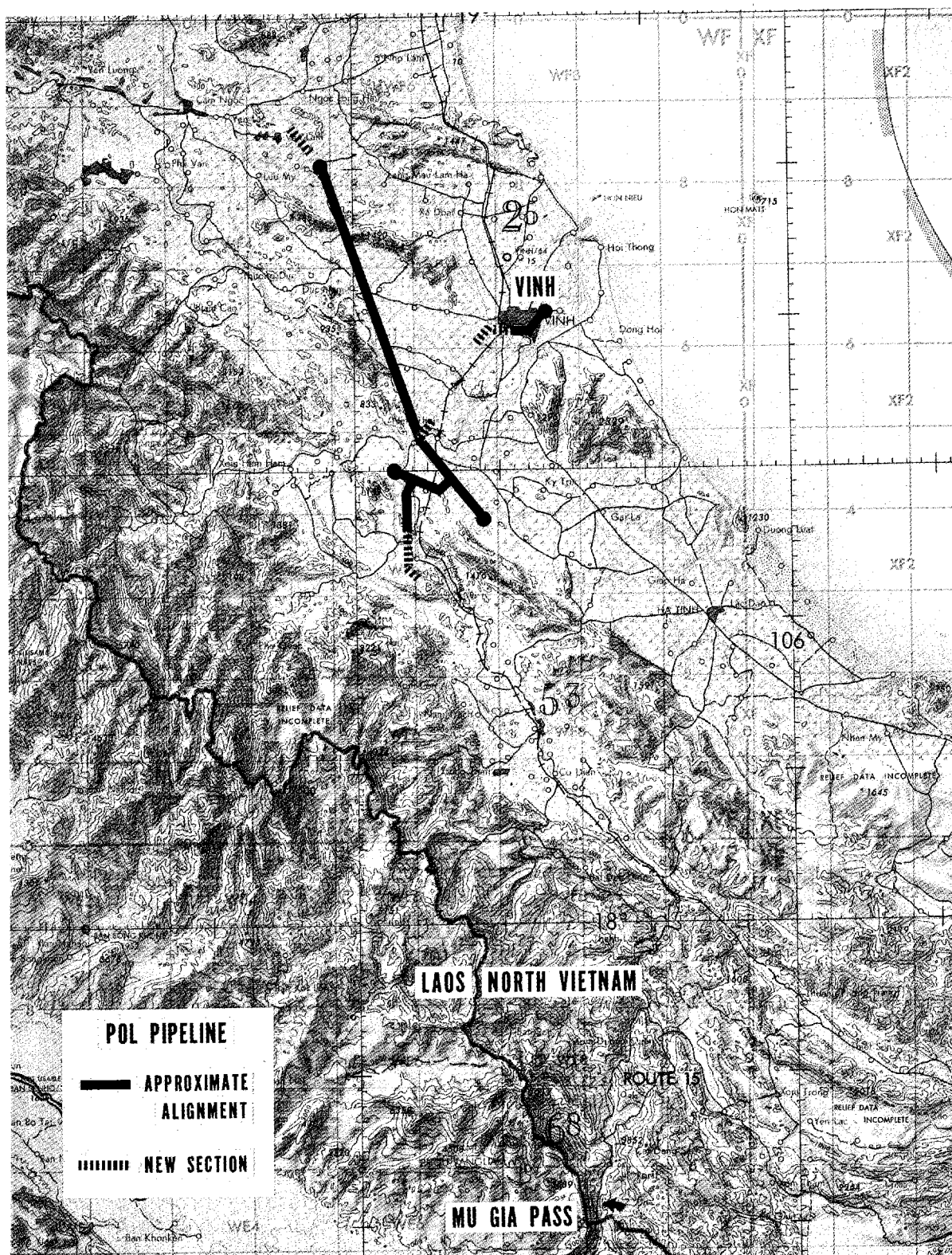


FIGURE 2. STATUS OF POL PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION IN NORTH VIETNAM, [REDACTED]

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IMAGERY ANALYSIS SERVICE

NORTH VIETNAM

Continuing POL Pipeline Construction in North Vietnam's Panhandle

25X1D As of [REDACTED], construction was continuing on both the north-south and east-west portions of the POL pipeline system the North Vietnamese are building below the 19th parallel (see Figure 2). It is still not possible to determine the full planned extent of the system. It does appear, however, that the east-west pipeline, which runs westward from the Vinh Petroleum Products Storage facility on the Song Ca (River), may soon join the longer north-south pipeline, which was first observed under construction in [REDACTED]. The pipeline being used in this system is estimated to be 100 mm (about 4 inches) in diameter.

25X1D Recent Giant Scale photography reveals new extensions to the north-south pipeline with at least a 2.5 nautical mile (nm) segment apparently being added to each end. At present a 1 nm gap separates the new northern segment from the existing pipeline. These new segments will extend the overall length of the north-south pipeline to nearly 40 nm. Construction on the western end of the east-west pipeline near Vinh has extended the length of this pipeline to 7.4 nm. The significance of this shorter east-west pipeline is its eastern terminus at a facility which permits transloading of POL from water-borne carriers.

Together, the north-south and east-west portions would provide the North Vietnamese with a highly versatile POL pipeline system in the panhandle area. POL could either be transferred directly into the east-west pipeline from river and coastal craft in the Vinh area or could be transferred by truck into the north-south pipeline at more inland and remote locations.

25X1D There is some photographic evidence that the North Vietnamese may possibly extend their north-south pipeline to the area of the Laos/North Vietnam border. Probable pipeline sections in trucks were seen as far south as Mu Gia Pass in early [REDACTED]

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